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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/431)*]

72/140. Persons with albinism

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[3] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[5] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[7]

Recalling resolution 70/229 of 23 December 2015, its previous resolution on persons with albinism,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 23/13 of 13 June 2013 on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism,[8] 24/33 of 27 September 2013 on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism[9] and 28/6 of 26 March 2015,[10] by which the Council established the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.
[4] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.
[5] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] A/37/351/Add.1 and A/37/351/Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).
[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. V, sect. A.
[9] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III.
[10] Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/70/53), chap. III, sect. A.

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Recalling further its resolution 69/170 of 18 December 2014, by which the General Assembly decided to proclaim 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day, with effect from 2015,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on social development challenges faced by persons with albinism[11] and the recommendations contained therein,

Taking note also of the report on persons with albinism submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,[12]

Taking note further of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolutions 263 of 5 November 2013 on the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism and 373 of 22 May 2017 on the Regional Action Plan on Albinism in Africa (2017–2021),

Expressing concern at all attacks against persons with albinism, including women and children,

Welcoming the steps taken and the efforts made by the countries concerned, including the initiation of legal action against perpetrators of attacks against persons with albinism, public condemnation of attacks against persons with albinism and public campaigns to raise awareness,

Expressing concern that persons with albinism are disproportionately affected by poverty, owing to the discrimination and marginalization they face, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need for resources to develop and implement programmes to prevent and combat prejudice, to foster inclusion and to create an environment conducive to respect for their rights and dignity,

Expressing concern also that women and girls with albinism may face multiple forms of discrimination, and a higher risk of sexual abuse, especially in communities where they are believed to have the power to cure HIV and AIDS, including being targets of witchcraft-related attacks,

Recognizing the need to address the root causes of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly the interrelated factors, including the mythologization of albinism and the related lack of understanding of the scientific bases of the condition, poverty, discrimination and economic and social marginalization, witchcraft practices and other aggravating factors, which contribute to the ongoing outbreaks of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly on the African continent,

Recognizing also that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[13] will contribute, inter alia, to the promotion of social inclusion of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with albinism,

Expressing concern at the absence of disaggregated data on the status of persons with albinism,

Recognizing that access to full and productive employment and decent work is an important aspect of participation in social and economic life,

Reaffirming the need for the participation of persons with albinism in development efforts at the national, regional and international levels, and in this

[11] A/72/169.
[12] A/HRC/24/57.
[13] Resolution 70/1.

regard stressing the need to strengthen the effectiveness of national, regional and international policy and development programmes related to persons with albinism,

1. *Urges* Member States to continue to meet their obligations to uphold the human rights of all persons, including persons with albinism, including the rights to life, liberty, security of person, education, work, an adequate standard of living and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

2. *Encourages* Member States to adopt, if necessary, national action plans and legislation, as appropriate, on the rights of persons with albinism, in conformity with their international human rights obligations and commitments, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[4] and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;[3]

3. *Also encourages* Member States to address the root causes of discrimination and violence against persons with albinism, including through awareness-raising campaigns, the dissemination of accurate information on albinism and other measures, such as the integration of albinism into education curricula, as appropriate;

4. *Further encourages* Member States to end impunity for violence against persons with albinism, including sexual and gender-based violence, by amending laws, where applicable, and by bringing perpetrators to justice;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to work to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into attacks against persons with albinism falling within their jurisdiction, to hold those responsible accountable and to ensure that victims and family members have access to appropriate remedies;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, in support of measures to prevent and combat discrimination against persons with albinism, including strengthening the capacity of their health-care systems to provide affordable dermatological and ophthalmological services;

7. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to collect, compile and disseminate disaggregated data on persons with albinism, where applicable, to identify patterns of discrimination and to assess progress towards the improvement of their status;

8. *Encourages* Member States to develop, if necessary, policies and measures to address the social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, who may require assistance in order to enjoy equal access to benefits and services, notably in the fields of education, employment and health, and to promote their participation in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life;

9. *Urges* Member States to implement, if necessary, national measures to ensure that persons with albinism are not left behind, recognizing that persons with albinism are often disproportionally affected by poverty, discrimination and lack of decent work and employment, and to commit to working towards the social integration of persons with albinism;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a report to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Social development", on the various social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, taking into consideration the specific needs of women and children, including those related to social inclusion, health, education and employment, and measures taken, with recommendations for further action to be taken by Member

States and other relevant stakeholders to address identified challenges, and encourages the Secretary-General to collect information from Member States and all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the report;

11. *Decides*, taking into account the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by persons with albinism, to consider the issue of persons with albinism at its seventy-fourth session, under the item entitled "Social development".

73rd plenary meeting
19 December 2017